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CANADA AND FIRST NATIONS PARTNER IN AN OLYMPIC LEGACY AGREEMENT

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Vancouver (June 13, 2008) - The Government of Canada today announced the conclusion of *Olympic Legacy Agreements* with the Musqueam First Nation and Tsleil-Waututh First Nation which will help ensure that Aboriginal people share in the economic, social and cultural benefits of hosting the 2010 Winter Games.

"Our government is following through on our commitment to make real and tangible improvements in the lives of First Nations people in our country," said Minister Strahl. "These agreements will help the Musqueam and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations seize the tremendous opportunity the 2010 Winter Games present to build lasting, positive legacies for present and future generations."

Collectively referred to as the Four Host First Nations (FHFN), the Musqueam and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations, together with the Lil'Wat and Squamish First Nations, will host many of the 2010 events on their asserted traditional land.

"The Government of Canada strongly believes that the involvement of Aboriginal peoples is vital to the overall success of the 2010 Winter Games," said David Emerson, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade and Minister for the Pacific Gateway and the Vancouver–Whistler Olympics. "The leaders of the Four Host First Nations recognized very early on that the Vancouver 2010 Winter Games represented a tremendous opportunity for their communities, and for all First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples."

"The Musqueam people are proud to welcome the Olympics, and the world, to our traditional territory," said Chief Ernest Campbell. "This honourable agreement will help us build a stronger, healthier community and ensure that current and future generations of the Musqueam people, will share in the legacy of the Olympics."

"Tsleil-Waututh welcomes all athletes, participants and visitors to our territory to celebrate the 2010 Games," said Chief Leah George-Wilson. "Our culture, our land and our people are our most valuable assets. This Legacy will enable us to repatriate some of the land that is critical to us for our community's future."

The Legacy Agreements provide the Musqueam and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations with the opportunity to purchase land, build capacity, enhance their skills, and develop their economy.

Backgrounder - Olympic Legacy Agreements

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Backgrounder - Olympic Legacy Agreements

Musqueam and Tsleil-Waututh Agreements

The *Olympic Legacy Agreements* with the Musqueam and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations recognize their contribution for securing the 2010 Winter Games in Canada. The agreements also spell out the opportunities the Games present for the Musqueam and Tsleil-Waututh communities.

The Government of Canada, through these Agreements, is providing the Musqueam and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations with $17 million each, which may be used for the acquisition of lands, capacity building, business development, skills enhancement and other economic development opportunities. These opportunities will help the First Nations develop long-term, positive legacies for present and future generations.

The Four Host First Nations

During the 2010 Winter Games in Vancouver-Whistler, most events will be held on the asserted traditional land of the Lil'Wat, Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations, collectively referred to as the Four Host First Nations (FHFN).

The FHFN recognize that the Games present a tremendous opportunity for their communities, and for all First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples. Their support, contribution and involvement played a key role in Canada being awarded the Games.

In 2002, the Government of British Columbia and the Vancouver Bid Corporation negotiated and signed the *Shared Legacies Agreement* with the Squamish and Lil'Wat First Nations to provide resources required to build the necessary Olympic infrastructure in Whistler on their asserted traditional land. Since Olympic infrastructure already existed in Vancouver, on the Musqueam and Tsleil-Waututh land, these First Nations were not included in that agreement.

Collectively, the FHFN work to ensure that their languages, traditions, protocols and cultures are meaningfully acknowledged respected and represented in the planning, staging and hosting of the Games. They also liaise with other First Nations, Métis and Inuit organizations to increase Aboriginal participation in the Games.

Additional information about the Four Host First Nations

Musqueam Nation

Descendants of the cultural group known as the Coast Salish tribe, lived in what is now known as Vancouver, and surrounding areas. Today's Musqueam community includes over 1,000 members who live on the Musqueam Indian Reserve located near the mouth of the Fraser River.

Tsleil-Waututh Nation

Also known as People of the Inlet, the Tsleil-Waututh Nation are Coast Salish people whose members live in a community on the north shore of Burrard Inlet. Their ancient culture is based on a "seasonal round" involving a complex cycle of food gathering, hunting, spiritual and cultural activities.

Squamish Nation

The Squamish Nation is comprised of Coast Salish peoples, descendants of the Aboriginal peoples who lived in the present-day Greater Vancouver area, Gibson's Landing (north of Vancouver) and Squamish River watershed. The Nation's population resides in nine communities stretching from North Vancouver to the northern area of Howe Sound, with 2,239 of its 3,324 members living on reserve. Membership is determined by birthright and by marriage.

Lil'wat Nation

The community of Mount Currie is home to the Lil'wat Nation. Located approximately 160 kilometres from Vancouver and 22 km north of Whistler, the Lil'wat Nation has a membership of over 1800 people. Approximately 1400 of its members reside on reserve, making Lil'wat Nation the fourth largest on-reserve community in B.C.

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